

An account of a Salt Spring, and another Medicinal Spring, on the banks of the River Weare, or Ware in the Bishoprick of Durham in a Letter to the Publisher, from the ingenious Mr. Hugh Todd Fellow of University College in Oxon, and Chaplain to the right Reverend Father in God ----- Lord Bishop of Carlile.

S I R,

I Am so much oblig'd to you for your many Favours when I was with you ; that now, when I am at so great a distance from *Oxon*, I cannot pass by any opportunity of serving you, in visiting the *Curiosities* of *Art* or *Nature* (with which the *Northern* parts *Durham*, and *Cumberland* especially, do abound) and in giving you an account of what, I judge, may be worth your knowledge.

When I was at *Durham* I was informed of an extraordinary *Salt-Spring*, and another *Mineral-Spring*, about a mile, or a mile and half out of Town. Upon the first leisure time that I had, I went to see them ; as I found, some of the *Lawyers* that came the *Circuit*, and many other *Gentlemen* had done.

The *Salt-Spring*, lyes, as I said, about a mile and half out of Town, on the North-East side, at a place called *Salt-water haugh* near *Butterby*. It rises in the middle of the River *Weare* or *Ware* ; and is good to be *seen*, and *tasted*, only in the *Summer* time, when the water is discharg'd all, on one side of the *Channel* : for in *Winter*, when the River is high it looses its *Salts*, in the fresh streams, so that they are not perceivable. The water does not rise at one or two or three places, but seems to bubble up equally in all parts in the *Channel*, for the space of 40 yards in length, and about 10 in breadth : for, wherever,

wherever, in that *Spot*, you remove the stones and sand, you shall perceive the water, presently arise and spring up. That, which I admired most, is, that the saltest of all the Springs, issues out of the middle of a *Rock*. I supposed that the brineness of its waters might be caused by the *heat* of the *Sun*, continually beating upon them, as they lay upon the *Rock*; the surface of which was manifestly saltish; and which, in a *hot* day (as I was told) would be all covered over with a perfect *Salt*. But I was undeceiv'd in this conjecture, by having all the water lav'd out of the place, where it seem'd to stagnate: for immediately, out of the body of the *Rock* there bubbled up water, as salt as the former. As to the degree of its *saltiness*, it was as high, as any brine can be, and tho' but little in quantity in comparison of the *fresh River*, yet of that force as to give a brackishness to the *streams*, a 100 yards below. Those that have boyled this *Brine*, (I had not time to try the experiment my self,) say that it affords a great quantity of *Bay Salt*, not so palatable, yet as useful as ordinary *Salt* is. It tinges all the stones with a *Red colour*. The original of this *Spring*, cannot be fetch'd any farther off, then the *Rock*, out of which it issues; for the *Sea*, which is the great *Treasure* of *Salt-water* is at too great a distance, to dispence any streams to this Place: being 8 miles off, where nearest.

On the other side of the *River*, there is lately discover'd a *Medicinal Spring*, which is, this year much frequented, and may be of great benefit to the *Country*. It was found out, by *workmen* that dug in that place for *Coal*. When they were 12 fathom and a half deep, they discover'd this *Treasure* of *Natural Physick*; which may be as good to the people, as what they sought for; tho' *Coal*, be a Commodity very necessary and beneficial to these *Parts*. The workmen thus failing of their *Expectation*, try'd the *Rock* about a 100 yards off: where they lost

themselves, much about the same depth; and instead of Coal, discover'd a Spring of excellent clear Water, which issues out at the Hole, which their Instruments made. I tell you this, that you may confirm your *observations*, of the many different apartments there are in the Earth; and with what different *Treasure* they are furnish'd.

I can say no more; I will only promise what I will say another time; and send the first opportunity. I will give you an account of a *Runick Inscription*, (mention'd but not understood by Mr. *Camden*,) on the *Font* in *Bridekirk* in *Cumberland*. I shall tell you something too, of two very *Ancient Monuments* something of the form of *Stonehenge*, but they seem far more ancient. And shall as I am able, give you Excripts of many Roman Inscriptions, which abound in this Country.

In point of obligation and gratitude; I will send you some *Roman Urns*, which I had at *Durham*. A piece of the *Salt Rock*, where the *Spring* issu'd out, which is of a sparkling substance. And if you will be at the Cost of *Carriage*, I will endeavour to send the *Stones* that have the Inscriptions on them. Where I can have them, I shall not omit any Opportunity to serve you, and the *Society*. Pray let me have what *Queries* you think fit to be satisfy'd in; and some *Rules* to direct my *Disquisitions*, by the first *Opportunity*: that when I visit all the Parts of this Country, which will be shortly, I may be the abler to serve you.

I have made enquiry, as to the *Longevity* of those that live in Mountainous Parts: and find, by Relation, that they out-live any that I have heard off in the *South*: but, that I am so unhappy, as not to be able to make any perfect account, about that Affair. The next *Spring Visitation* will give me opportunity to consult the *Registres* and *Church-Books*; and so make me
abler

abler to give an exact, credible Relation, which I shall be sure to doe.

As I Travell'd over *Stanemoore* in *Yorkshire*, I observ'd the River *Greatah*, (a River about half as big as *Charmell* at *Oxford*) run under ground for about a Mile, so that we pass'd over it, dry-foot. The passage under ground is but narrow; so that in winter when the streams are high, it keeps the Channel above ground.

S I R, I am

Your most Oblig'd Friend

and Humble Servant

HUGH TODD.